

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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PARIS FOR OECD

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECOSOC, UN, EAID
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE STATEMENT IN ECOSOC PLENARY, JULY 8

1. ARGENTINA'S GENEVA PERMREP MARTINEZ DELIVERED ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL OF LDC STATEMENTS WE HAVE HEARD SO FAR IN THE GENERAL DEBATE, CENTERPIECE OF WHICH WAS CRITICISM OF POVERTY AND LEAST DEVELOPED-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

2. MARTINEZ BEGAN BY OBSERVING THAT AT CONCLUSION OF SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF GA, LDCs HAD THE SENSE THAT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAD FINALLY ACCEPTED NECESSITY FOR PROFOUND CHANGES IN WORLD ECONOMIC RELATIONS. THIS APPARENTLY WAS NOT THE CASE, AND NEGATIVE ATTITUDES HAVE BEEN REAPPEARING. HE "SINCERELY" REGRETTED, IN PARTICULAR, THAT "ONE DELEGATION" (US) HAD CHOSEN TO REAFFIRM ITS RESERVATIONS ON THE NIEO RESOLUTIONS.

3. HE THEN WENT ON TO CRITICIZE LACK OF PROGRESS ON PRACTICALLY ALL FRONTS, INCLUDING RESOURCE TRANSFERS, INDUSTRIALIZATION AND
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TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. ON TRADE, HE SAID THAT FAR FROM ITS BEING LIBERALIZED, THE SO-CALLED "FREE TRADE" COUNTRIES ARE NOT EVEN RESPECTING THE EXISTING STATUS QUO AND ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY PROTECTIONIST.

4. WHAT DO THE RICH COUNTRIES OFFER IN PLACE OF NIEO AND CERDS? THEY NOW PROPOSE A NEW CONCEPT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NAMELY,

THAT ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED ON THE POOREST COUNTRIES AND FOR THE SATISFACTION OF BASIC NEEDS. SYG WALDHEIM'S ENDORSEMENT OF THIS CONCEPT WAS PARTICULARLY WORRISOME TO ARGENTINA, WHICH FINDS THE ENTIRE IDEA QUESTIONABLE, AND A WHOLLY UNSATISFACTORY SUBSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT AND FOR CONCRETE ACTIONS IN THE AREAS OF MARKET ACCESS, RESOURCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS, ETC., AS ENVISAGED UNDER THE NIEO.

5. THIS NEW APPROACH WOULD CUT ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES JUST WHEN THEY NEEDED IT MOST, IT WOULD CONDEMN THEM TO PERPETUAL UNDER-DEVELOPMENT, IT WOULD BE AN INSTRUMENT FOR NEOCOLONIALISM, IT REPRESENTS "PHONY PHILANTHROPY." WHILE THE INTENTIONS BEHIND THE IDEA MAY BE LAUDABLE, WE MUST BE CLEAR THAT IT IS BOTH ERRONEOUS AND PERNICIOUS, AND ARGENTINA IS NOT PREPARED TO SIT BY AND LISTEN TO ITS PROPONENTS WITHOUT EXPRESSING ITS VIGOROUS DISAGREEMENT.

6. ARGENTINA DOES NOT OPPOSE THE STRUGGLE AGAINST POVERTY BUT THE STRUGGLE SHOULD NOT JUST BE A PROPAGANDA BATTLE. A STRATEGY WHICH SETS THE "IMPOSSIBLE GOAL" OF ERADICATING POVERTY MAY ACHIEVE SOME SHORT TERM GAINS BUT DOES NOTHING TO DEAL WITH THE LONGER TERM PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT OR WITH THE CONFLICTS WHICH ARE SURE TO ARISE FROM THEM IN THE LONGER RUN.

7. COMMENT: A NUMBER OF DELEGATES FROM LATIN AMERICA RUSHED UP TO AMBASSADOR MARTINEZ IMMEDIATELY AFTER HE CONCLUDED STATEMENT
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TO OFFER THEIR CONGRATUALTIONS. USDEL BELIEVES THAT THIS CAREFULLY DRAFTED CRITIQUE OF THE BASIC NEEDS APPROACH MAY REPRESENT ONLY THE OPENING SHOT IN A DETERMINED CAMPAIGN WHICH MORE ADVANCED LDCS INTEND TO WAGE IN ECOSOC (AND ELSEWHERE WITHIN THE US SYSTEM) AGAINST THE BASIC NEEDS STRATEGY. THEIR ARGUMENT, WHICH BY IMPLICATION TOTALLY REJECTS AN EQUITY-BASED PARTICIPATORY STRATEGY AS A VALID APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT, AND WHICH IGNORES THE CONTINUE EMPHASIS WE HAVE BEEN PLACING ON GROWTH OJECTIVES, WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE A DETAILED RESPONSE AT SOME POINT LATER IN THE SESSION.SORENSEN

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